

The Region III Report

The FEMA Region III Information Source, Philadelphia, PA

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Biennial NFIP Report Survey About to Start

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is preparing to mail its National Flood Insurance Program Biennial Report. The report asks NFIP participating communities to submit information on the level of development in floodplains, mapping needs, whether the community needs technical assistance and to identify local officials in charge of floodplain management.

For the first time, communities will be able to complete the survey

on-line, as well as by facsimile or by mailing hard copy. The on-line survey will include links to web pages pertaining to map-needs assessment, the FEMA publications catalogue, the Emergency Management Institute and the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

Information gathered through the 2000/2001 Biennial Report will be used in supporting the floodplain map needs assessment under the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. The Report is scheduled to be mailed in December.

Engineer Joins FIM

Region III's newest employee is civil engineer Michael Craghan, who was hired for the team working on FEMA's anticipated \$351 million map-modernization program.

Michael, a New Jersey native who lives in Manasquan, earned his B.S. in civil engineering at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He also earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in geography at Rutgers.



Michael Craghan

His research in human and environmental interaction on coastal areas attracted the attention of Marty Frengs, branch chief for hazard identification and risk assessment in the Federal Insurance and Mitigation (FIM) Division, who is supervising the map-modernization program.

Michael and fellow engineers Nikki Roberts and Jon Janowicz are working with Region III states in creating new map products.

"We are transferring information from paper to digital form that will be easier to store, update, access and distribute," Marty said.

Michael is the author of "Physical Geography: A Self-Teaching Guide," to be published next year by John Wiley and Sons.

His research and knowledge of coastal flooding seemed a natural match with the posting for the permanent full-time position he started last week in Philadelphia.

FEMA Deputy Director Visits Region

FEMA Deputy Director Mike Brown visited the Region III Office Tuesday, Oct. 15, to meet staff, discuss the status of planning for the agency's expected move into the Department of Homeland Security and to answer any questions and concerns of regional staff.

At the all-hands meeting, Mr. Brown joined Regional Director Charlotte Herbert Mears in presenting Judy Locher her award for



Regional Director Charlotte Herbert Mears and FEMA Deputy Director Mike Brown present Program Specialist Judy Locher her award for Employee of the Quarter.

employee of the quarter. Mr. Brown praised Judy's achievements in assuming the training position role in the region as exemplary of what defines FEMA's mission.

In addition to attending the all-hands meeting, the Deputy Director met with regional management, division directors and union representatives.

► **Three Cities Earn NFIP Discounts:** Three Region III communities earned upgrades in their Community Rating System (CRS) classes. The result will be discounts on flood insurance premiums for both new and existing policyholders. Ocean City, MD, and Wilkes-Barre, PA, were upgraded from Class 8 to Class 7. Policyholders there now qualify for a 15 percent discount on flood insurance. Arlington, VA, was moved up to Class 8 from Class 9 with a 10 percent savings on premiums. The changes went into effect on Oct. 1. CRS communities earn class upgrades by completing activities beyond basic NFIP requirements, such as providing flood insurance rate map information to the public and publicizing the service, guaranteeing that vacant floodplain land remains free of development and providing public early-flood warning systems. *For more information, call Gene Marrone at 215-931-5656.*

► **Fire Grants, Round 7:** 55 fire companies in Region III will receive a total of \$3.4 million. The largest grant, \$343,560, goes to the Baltimore County Fire Department in Towson, MD, for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety. Other large grants include: Pennsylvania — Reading Department of Fire & Rescue Services, \$285,070; Grapeville Volunteer Fire Company, \$151,371; Cochranville Fire Company, \$108,351; and Mount Carbon Fire Company Number One, Pottsville, \$104,328; Virginia — \$157,500 for a firefighting vehicle for Branchville Volunteer Fire Department; West Virginia — Clearview Volunteer Fire Department, Wheeling, \$107,398. To date, awards totaling \$16,789,787 have been announced for 255 fire companies in Region III states. The national figures are 2,755 grants totaling about \$168 million. *For more information, call Phil Clark at 215-931-5716.*

► **Team Up for Fire Safety:** The U.S. Fire Administration and FEMA provide educational material to schools and families all year. This year, under the theme of “Team Up for Fire Safety,” everyone is urged to work together to make homes, schools, office buildings and communities safer. USFA urges everyone to replace smoke-detector batteries on Oct. 27, when we reset clocks to standard time. *For more information, go to the USFA website www.usfa.fema.gov or to www.firepreventionweek.org.*

► **Coast Day:** FEMA Region III participated in the University of Delaware’s annual Coast Day at the College of Marine Studies in Lewes on Sunday, Oct. 5. Region III offered information on disaster preparedness and mitigation. Most of the inquiries related to construction techniques for disaster-resistant buildings and the National Flood Insurance Program. Participation in the event was part of the region’s continuing outreach and partnership efforts with the states. RIII would like to hear about similar projects in which FEMA and the states can work together. *For more information, call Bob Gunter at 215-931-5622.*

► **Deadline Extended:** The deadline for state and local governments to submit mitigation plans to receive grant assistance has been extended from Nov. 1, 2003, to Nov. 1, 2004, as reported. The date mitigation plans will be required under the PDM program for “brick and mortar” project grants, however, remains Nov. 1, 2003. *For more information, call Joe Zagone at 215-931-5542*

► **DMA2K Grant Limit:** Disaster Mitigation Act 2000, which is now in effect, sets a \$25,000 limit on the total award from the Individuals and Households Program. That \$25,000 limit does not include Small Business Administration disaster loans for homeowners and renters. *For further information, call Jack Schuback at 215-931-56524.*

► **NP Supplemental Grants:** FEMA Region III, on Sept. 24, notified its state directors that Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Funds will be available. States may submit applications for state and local emergency operations planning, Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT). Grants also may be for Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) self-assessments (Phase I) and upgrading or retrofitting structures to increase capability (Phase II). Local governments receive assistance as subgrantees from their states. Applications are due to the FEMA Region III Director by Friday, Nov. 8, for the planning and Citizen Corps initiatives, and Phase 1 EOC assessment funds. Approval for planning, Citizen Corps, and Phase 1 EOC funds will be made in early December. Currently, the deadline for Phase II applications is May 17, 2003, with awards to be announced on June 21. *For more information, call Dan Joyce at 215-931-5516.*

More circulation: *The Region III Report* is a vehicle for FEMA to share information with our federal, state and local partners and our full-time staff and reservists. Thank you for your comments and suggestions in our previous issues. Please send any additional email addresses or changes to susan.greatorex@fema.gov.